



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

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Nebraska National Guard Supports Local Officials

LINCOLN, Neb. – As Nebraska responds to current and potential flooding along the Missouri and Platte River valleys, the Nebraska National Guard is supporting local and state officials in dealing with emergency situations while preparing to do more in the event that flooding worsens.

“The Nebraska National Guard is providing trained and highly skilled Soldiers and Airmen where required to help assist local officials,” said Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, adjutant general for Nebraska.

According to Nebraska National Guard officials, the Nebraska National Guard has 49 Soldiers and Airmen currently working in active support of the emergency at locations across the state.

This number includes 12 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers who are working in South Sioux City where they are assisting local emergency management officials in conducting 24-hour monitoring of levees along the Missouri River.

Guard Soldiers are also supporting local emergency management officials in several other advisory roles as well.

The Nebraska National Guard has also pre-positioned sandbags and slingload straps at Martin Field near South Sioux City and at the Nebraska National Guard air base near Lincoln. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters are also standing by in Lincoln in the event that officials need to conduct aerial sandbagging operations. This positions the Nebraska Guard to be able conduct aerial sandbagging operations where needed along the Missouri River.

Last week those same Black Hawk helicopters supported a similar operation near North Platte when flooding threatened to cut off U.S. Highway 30 and the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad. Members of a Colorado Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and a civilian UH-1 helicopter crew assisted in the operations.

National Guardsmen are also involved in a number of other flood-related missions. These include:

- Four Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers are working with specialists from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency in monitoring along the Platte River valley in the western portion of the state;
- Two Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers are providing transportation support as officials stockpile slingload straps for aerial sandbag operations near South Sioux City and the Nebraska National Guard airbase in Lincoln;
- 12 Members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard are working in the State Emergency Operations Center in Lincoln, Neb. Soldiers are also manning the Flooding Hotline from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The Hotline can be reached at 855-211-2453 or 855-211-2454;
- 19 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers are working in the Guard's Joint Operations Center in Lincoln where they are responsible for helping coordinate current and future National Guard support missions.

"Members of the Nebraska National Guard have been alerted and are ready to respond if the situation dictates. We are ready to support the Governor and other officials across the state when called to do so," said Lyons.

"I'm proud of the men and women who have already been asked to respond," said Lyons. "This is what being a member of the Nebraska National Guard is all about."

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